

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

714/744 P STREET

P.O. BOX 942732

SACRAMENTO, CA 94234-7320



March 13, 1990

TO: All County Welfare Directors  
All County Administrative Officers

Letter No.: 90-27

SUBJECT: EXPANSION OF PRIMARY LANGUAGE AND ETHNIC CODES ON THE MEDI-CAL  
ELIGIBILITY DATA SYSTEM (MEDS) NETWORK

In September 1989, Assembly Bill No. 814 was signed by the Governor. This bill requires that all state agencies and state-funded programs use uniform collection categories for the major Asian and Pacific Islander ethnic groups. In May 1989, the Department of Social Services (DSS) issued All County Information Notice No. I-29-89 to counties requesting information on ethnic origin and primary languages of recipients in each county. The Department of Social Services uses both the ethnic origin and primary language data for Affirmative Action programs and statistical services. The new ethnic and language codes that DSS needs for their reporting purposes are not being collected on the MEDS Network. Counties that rely on MEDS for the data requested by DSS are not able to provide the requested information.

The Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch worked with DSS to determine what new codes should be added to these fields. The list of proposed ethnic and language codes were presented and approved by the County MEDS Advisory Group (CMAG) - North and South. Due to the number of additions, in both fields, we will be changing them from 1 digit numeric to 1 digit alphanumeric. These changes are scheduled to be in place by May 1990 Month of Eligibility (MOE). Enclosures 1 & 2 contain the new language and ethnic codes. Currently both our Department and DSS are reviewing and updating all forms used to collect ethnic and primary language information.

We are requesting that the beneficiary's ethnic origin and primary language designation be reviewed at redetermination or re-application, whichever comes first. If possible, we would like counties to begin sending the new codes during the May 1990 MOE. Please note that the beneficiary is not required to provide this information as a condition of eligibility. If he/she declines to provide this information the eligibility worker should use his/her own judgment in providing this data.

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Using the enclosed charts please ensure that the MEDS Network is updated (either online or through you own county's batch system) with the correct information.

If you have any questions or your county system cannot be changed prior to this date, please contact Frances Schurer, of my staff at (916) 322-3463 and let her know when your county will have system changes in place.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Frank S. Martucci, Chief  
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch

Enclosures

cc: Medi-Cal Liaisons  
Medi-Cal Program Consultants

Expiration Date: March 13, 1991

LANGUAGE CODES

|  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| <i>0 - American Sign Language (ASL)</i>                | <i>1 - Spanish</i>           |
| <i>2 - Cantonese</i>                                   | <i>3 - Japanese</i>          |
| <i>4 - Korean</i>                                      | <i>5 - Tagalog</i>           |
| <i>6 - Other non-English</i>                           | <i>7 - English</i>           |
| <i>8 - No valid data reported<br/>(MEDS generated)</i> | <i>9 - Not a valid value</i> |
| <i>A - Other Sign Language</i>                         | <i>B - Mandarin</i>          |
| <i>C - Other Chinese Languages</i>                     | <i>D - Cambodian</i>         |
| <i>E - Armenian</i>                                    | <i>F - Illacano</i>          |
| <i>G - Mien</i>  | <i>H - Hmong</i>             |
| <i>I - Lao</i>   | <i>J - Turkish</i>           |
| <i>K - Hebrew</i>                                      | <i>L - French</i>            |
| <i>M - Polish</i>                                      | <i>N - Russian</i>           |
| <i>O - Not a valid value</i>                           | <i>P - Portuguese</i>        |
| <i>Q - Italian</i>                                     | <i>R - Arabic</i>            |
| <i>S - Samoan</i>                                      | <i>T - Thai</i>              |
| <i>U - Farsi</i>                                       | <i>V - Vietnamese</i>        |

W-Z - Reserved for future use

**\*\*Note:** *Italic print indicates the necessary changes.*

ETHNIC CODES

|  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 - White                                | 2 - Hispanic                                   |
| 3 - Black                                | 4 - <i>Other</i> Asian or Pacific<br>Islander  |
| 5 - Alaskan Native or<br>American Indian | 6 - Not a valid value                          |
| 7 - Filipino                             | 8 - No Valid Data Reported<br>(MEDS generated) |
| <i>C - Chinese</i>                       | <i>H - Cambodian</i>                           |
| <i>J - Japanese</i>                      | <i>K - Korean</i>                              |
| <i>M - Samoan</i>                        | <i>N - Asian Indian</i>                        |
| <i>P - Hawaiian</i>                      | <i>R - Guamanian</i>                           |
| <i>T - Laotian</i>                       | <i>V - Vietnamese</i>                          |

**\*\*Note: *Italic print indicates the necessary changes.***